Government. Assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) will, however, be subject to adjustment of balances available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the State.

Loan to farmers in drought hit areas

347. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current year'drought is very widespread and worst in the past 50 years and worst sufferers are farmers;'

(b) if so, the details of farmers/people affected loss of money and cattle in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the farmers are provided with additional crop loans by NABARD and othe Co-operation and Regional Banks to the drought hit people; and

(d) if so, the details of additional crop loans advanced, State-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The current drought is of a very severe nature. As this stage, it is difficult to assess the moretary losses suffered on account of drought. In 15 States, however, 358 districts have been declared as drought affected and the rural population in these States is regarded as affected by drought situation.

NABARD has advised the Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to provide additional crop loan at enhanced scales of finance for fresh sowing operations. As advised by NABARD, Banks have sanctioned additional crop loan at enhanced scales of finance for fresh sowing operations. The details of refinance

provided by NABARD to Cooperative Banks in some of the drought affected States aggregated to Rs. 180.51 crores as on 15th November, 2002 as per details furnished below:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Amount sanctioned
1	Andhra Pradesh	7298.00
2	Orissa	1460.89
3	Tamil Nadu	2439.00
4	Madhya Pradesh	2245.50
5	Rajasthan	4608.00*
	TOTAL:	18051.39

'Provisional.

Compensation to drought affected cultivators

348. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the foodgrains production has been reduced this time on account of severe drought in different parts of the country;

(b) the number of cultivators falling prey to drought;

(c) the compensation extended to the affected cultivators and the amount thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the details of extent of efforts made and assistance accorded for alternative crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) According to the first advance estimates of crop production during 2002-03 as on 12.11.2002, the foodgrains production during kharif 2002-03 is expected to be 90.64 million tonnes as compared to 111.51 million tonnes estimated during kharif 2001-02.